



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

TODD P. GRAVES

Contact Don Ledford, Public Affairs • (816) 426-4220 • 400 East Ninth Street, Room 5510 • Kansas City, MO 64106

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html

NOVEMBER 16, 2005
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

U.S. ATTORNEY SEEKING THE DEATH PENALTY IN TWO CASES

KANSAS CITY, Mo. – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced today that he will seek the death penalty against two defendants in separate and unrelated cases.

“We filed notice with the court today of intent to seek the death penalty against Lisa Montgomery and Phil Street,” Graves said. “In both of these cases, federal indictments allege that murders were committed under circumstances that justify the death penalty.”

Graves noted that there are 36 prisoners currently under sentence of death in the federal system, including four from the Western District of Missouri. In addition, a federal jury is currently deliberating whether to sentence convicted murderer Edwin Hineostroza to death or life imprisonment; another capital case is scheduled for trial in Springfield on Sept. 11, 2006.

“As these numbers indicate, we intend to prosecute federal defendants to the full extent of the law, and will not shy away from seeking the ultimate penalty for the ultimate crime,” Graves said. “Our decision to seek the death penalty in each of these cases is made with careful deliberation so that justice is served.”

* **Lisa M. Montgomery**, 37, of Melvern, Kan., was charged by a federal grand jury with kidnapping Victoria Jo Stinnett and taking her across the state line from Skidmore, Mo., to Melvern. According to the indictment, **Montgomery’s** actions resulted in the death of Bobbie Jo Stinnett, the baby’s mother.

The federal indictment alleges that **Montgomery** strangled Bobbie Jo Stinnett with a rope and then used a kitchen knife to cut her infant daughter from her womb. At the time of her death, the indictment says, Bobbie Jo Stinnett was eight months pregnant.

Montgomery's trial is scheduled for April 24, 2006.

* **John "Phil" Street**, 42, formerly of Jackson County, Mo., was indicted by a federal grand jury on Sept. 10, 2004, for killing Douglas C. Weil of Independence, Mo., while **Street** was engaged in the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine between May 1, 1997 and Feb. 5, 1998.

The federal indictment alleges that **Street** used a firearm to murder Weil. The indictment alleges that **Street** possessed the firearm in furtherance of a drug trafficking crime – the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine – and that **Street** killed Weil with the intent to prevent Weil from communicating with a law enforcement officer about the manufacture and distribution of methamphetamine.

Street's trial is scheduled for Feb. 2, 2006.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at
www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow/index.html